

This work programme is currently being taken forward through CCGNI, with DoH in the lead on health and social care, DoJ leading on excess deaths, and TEO leading on sector resilience.

DoH is responding to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the novel coronavirus as Lead Government Department and we activated Health Gold on 27th February. We are continuing to work closely with the relevant authorities and public health organisations across the UK as the outbreak in China develops, to ensure we are ready to deal with the health and social care consequences of the situation.

Given developments in China in recent days, I anticipate that the demand for information, guidance and co-ordination is highly likely to increase significantly in coming weeks. This raises issues around both sector resilience and wider strategic coordination across civil contingencies arrangements.

I do not consider it necessary to activate NICCMA arrangements at this time, unless or until the infection appears in NI and impacts are experienced here. However, the CCPB has oversight of civil contingencies arrangements in Northern Ireland and leads on the PFRB sector resilience workstream. Therefore, in order to provide reassurances should an escalation of events require a request to implement NICCMA, it would be helpful if you would consider convening a multi-agency meeting in order to inform an assessment of sector resilience preparedness, capacity and capabilities across NI departments and agencies and the emergency services.

To assist with wider government co-ordination here, the Chief Medical Officer has written a letter (Annex A) regarding health advice, to be shared with CCG leads for information and cascading to their Arm's Length Bodies. I would be grateful if you could arrange for this to be shared as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or NR (EOC Chief of Staff) if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Personal Data

Liz Redmond  
**Director of Population Health**  
**Health Gold – EOC Lead**

cc. Richard Pengelly  
Michael McBride  
Naresh Chada  
Bernie Rooney

NR

**Annex A** – CMO letter to other government departments and ALBs with health advice, for issue to CCGNI members

